

Application No. 09/934,947
Amendment dated April 29, 2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance of February 3, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4756

REMARKS

As stated above, this Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee due of February 3, 2004, but before payment was made of the Issue Fee and in support of the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 which is filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicants note that pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.313(a) no petition to withdraw the application from issue is required. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits.

As indicated in the Notice of Allowability, all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 17, 24-39, 41, 42 and 44-46) had been allowed. By this Amendment, claim 45 is amended and new claim 47 is added. No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims and new claims are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as in the Notice of Allowance.